

Remarks/Arguments

This response is promptly filed to place the above-referenced case in condition for immediate allowance. No claims have been cancelled. No claims have been amended. No claims have been added. Claims 1-57 are pending in the present application.

Examiner Interview

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for granting a telephonic interview which was conducted December 3, 2004 between the Examiner and Applicants' attorney. During the interview, Applicants noted that the instant application is a continuation in part of serial number 09/782,865, now U.S. Patent No. 6,655,695 to Sund et al. (hereinafter Sund-695). Applicants also noted that rejections presented in the instant Office action are identical in scope and applicability to the rejections outlined in an Office action dated 03/13/2003 issued in the parent application, Sund-695. Applicants further noted that the rejections issued in Sund-695 had been overcome in a response filed in the parent case on June 10, 2003.

The Examiner agreed with Applicants that the rejections in Sund-695 and the instant application are essentially identical, and that the rejections had previously been overcome during prosecution of the parent case. The Examiner offered to withdraw the current rejections in view of the above referenced response in the parent case.

The Examiner indicated concerns about double patenting in the present application in view of the parent application. The Examiner requested Applicants to provide an explanation as to the novelty of the present application over Sund-695. The Examiner suggested that such an explanation pointing out the points of novelty in the present application is all that would be required to

put the present application in a condition for allowance.

As requested by the Examiner, Applicants respectfully provide hereinbelow an explanation as to the novelty of the present invention over Sund-695. Accordingly, Applicants consider the rejections in the present Office action to be withdrawn in view of the response filed in Sund-695 on November 18, 2004.

Claim 1 of Sund-695 recites:

A face seal assembly for sealing between rotating components of a gas turbine engine mounted on a rotating shaft and a housing circumscribing the rotating components comprising:

an annular seal rotor adapted for mounting to the shaft, the seal rotor having a metal base portion having a radially extending flange with first and second axially facing surfaces,

a first ring mounted to the first axially facing surface of the flange by a first braze joint, and

a second ring mounted to the second axially facing surface of the flange by a second braze joint; and

an annular stator adapted for mounting to the housing and having an axially facing surface that sealingly engages an axially facing surface of the first ring. (emphasis added)

Claim 1 of the present application recites further limitations to the *annular stator adapted for mounting to the housing* recited in Claim 1 of Sund-695. In particular, Claim 1 of the present application recites an annular stator having:

“a metal stator base portion having a radially extending stator flange with first and second axially facing stator surfaces, and

Serial No. 10/687,467

a first stator ring mounted to the first axially facing stator surface of the stator flange by a first stator braze joint, wherein one of said first and second axially facing rotor surfaces sealing engages one of said first and second axially facing stator surfaces."

None of the claims in Sund-695 recite the further limitations to the annular stator as are recited in the present application. Accordingly, the present application is novel and non-obvious over Sund-695.

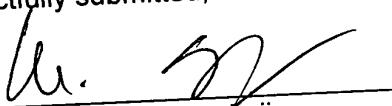
CONCLUSION

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Office Action with respect to claims 1-57 is requested. Applicants submit that claims 1-57 are now in condition for allowance.

In the event that the examiner wishes to discuss any aspect of this response, please contact the attorney at the telephone number identified below.

Respectfully submitted,

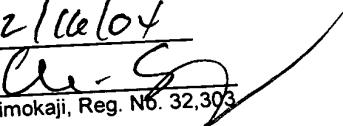
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